

PING

9 NOVEMBER 1956

RETURN OF BEN YOUSSEF TO MOROCCO

Reenthronement of Mohamed ben Youssef--

expected to occur before 18 November

anniversary of his enthronement in 1927--

pens new but probably no less tumultuous  
chapter in French-Moroccan relations.

Reenthronement is complete about-face for  
France. As recently as 4 October Resident  
General firmly declared that Ben Youssef's  
return to Morocco was excluded; yet Faure  
cabinet recognized him as Sultan on  
November.

In nationalist eyes, this reversal was  
result of their maneuvers, manipulations  
and pressure.

Settlers are disillusioned with Paris  
policy; will strive to retain privileges  
and position.

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III. Ben Youssef--43 years old, intelligent,  
able--probably will attempt to maintain  
independent position with no ties or  
commitments to any faction.

A. Sultan's relations with dominant  
nationalist party, Istiqlal, now close,  
but likely to be strained when Istiqlal  
does not get the recognition and favors  
it expects as a reward for two years of  
pressure for his return.